

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7658

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4396

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION UN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T USNATO 5089

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO, MARR

SUBJ: GREECE AND NATO

REF: USNATO 4925

1. MAVROS DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING WITH LUNS SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF A SOVIET ATTACK, THE U.S. WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HELP DEFEND GREECE, SINCE AN ATTACK ON GREECE WOULD BE AN ATTACK ON THE WEST AND THE U.S. MUST COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST.

2. THE MISSION BELIEVES THE U.S. SHOULD SEEK TO CORRECT THIS SIMPLISTIC VIEW OF U.S. SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES. THE U.S. HAS NOT BLANKET RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST. THE U.S. DOES HAVE A COMMITMENT TO ITS NATO ALLIES,
SECRET

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WHICH IS SET DOWN IN ARTICLE 5 OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.

3. THE U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY UPHELD THE MUTUAL NATURE OF ITS NATO COMMITMENT. THE VANDENBERG RESOLUTION EXPRESSED THE

SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEEK ASSOCIATION
"WITH SUCH REGIONAL AND OTHER COLLECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS AS
ARE BASED ON CONTINUOUS AND EFFECTIVE SELF-HELP AND MUTUAL
AID, AND AS AFFECT ITS NATIONAL SECURITY". THIS HAS REMAINED
THE BASIS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN NATO. THE U.S. RESPONSE
TO A GIVEN THREAT TO GREECE WOULD INEVITABLY RELATE TO
THE EVALUATION BY THE U.S. PUBLIC, CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRA-
TION OF THE EXTENT OF THE GREEK COMMITMENT TO NATO GOALS.
GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE
PLACES THAT COMMITMENT IN QUESTION.

4. MISSION RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTY OF MAKING POINTS SUCH AS
ABOVE TO GREEKS WITHOUT APPEARING PROVOCATIVE. HOWEVER,
MAVROS SEEMS TO HAVE A BASIC MISCONCEPTION OF U.S.
RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD GREECE, AND THIS MISCONCEPTION
NEEDS CORRECTING BOTH IN U.S. AND GREEK INTEREST. WE WOULD
HOPE THAT EMBASSY ATHENS OR WASHINGTON COULD FIND SUITABLE,
PRIVATE OCCASION TO MAKE THIS CLEAR AND THAT OUR ALLIES MAKES
THESE POINTS TO ATHENS AS WELL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IF WASHINGTON AGREES WITH THE MISSION
ASSESSMENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE OR INSTRUCTIONS
ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THE NATO CONTEXT. MCAULIFFE

SECRET

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